

# LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

600 Carondelet, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Email: legerw@legis.state.la.us  
Phone: 504.556.9970  
or 504.556.9971  
Fax: 504.556.9972



Appropriations  
Education  
Joint Legislative Committee  
on the Budget  
Judiciary

**WALT LEGER, III**  
**State Representative ~ District 91**

June 13, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

It is my belief that all Louisiana residents and American citizens, regardless of geographic location, should have equal access to the same modern technologies. Mobile broadband, however, is a tool that is currently reserved for the most privileged, wealthy or densely populated areas of the country. Whether they are rural or urban, upper class or lower class, all American communities should have equal access to high-speed, wireless broadband.

The proposed combination of AT&T/T-Mobile would drastically increase the scope of wireless broadband to cover an additional 55 million Americans. In fact, after the merger AT&T will cover more than ninety seven percent of the country. This impressive accomplishment should be encouraged, not condemned. Louisiana constituents living in my district deserve this type of coverage and I am here to fight for that right.

It is absurd to me that other states and even other countries are beating Louisiana when it comes to access to mobile broadband. Disadvantages such as this are slowly decreasing the quality of life, education, health care, and employment in the region. It is essential that we create an environment that fosters technological advancement and innovation. AT&T is ready and willing to help.

Through this merger, it will be possible for schools across the state to utilize new teaching tools or distance learning practices. Through distance learning, children living in rural regions or

Page 2 of 2  
June 13, 2011

talented students in urban areas will have remote access to the exact type of teaching that they need from anywhere in the country. Additionally, hospitals or health care providers will be able to practice telemedicine or remote medical monitoring throughout the region. This means more advanced and reliable treatment will be made equally available to all Louisianans.

As you can see, this merger alone will take a massive step in the right direction when it comes to digital equality and universal access to mobile broadband from anywhere in the state. Please carefully review all of the benefits that Louisiana stands to gain from this merger. I think that you will agree with me when I say that this merger cannot be denied and must be approved for the residents of my district.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walt Leger, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "W" and "L".

Walt Leger, III

WL,III/bst